

REMARKS

This Application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Office Action electronically sent September 7, 2007. Claims 1-20 are pending in this application. Claims 5-12 and 15-19 are withdrawn. Claims 1, 2, 13, 14, and 20 are rejected, and Claims 3 and 4 are objected to. For at least the reasons discussed below, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants note with appreciation the Examiner's indication that Claims 3 and 4 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As discussed below, Applicants have amended independent Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 3 and have canceled Claim 3.

Section 102 Rejection

The Examiner rejects Claims 1-2, 13-14 and 20 under U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,429,974 issued to Thomas et al. ("Thomas").

Applicants have amended Claim 1 to include the limitations of Claim 3, which the Examiner has indicated is allowable. Similarly, Applicants have amended independent Claims 13 and 20 to include analogous limitations. Therefore, Applicants believe that Claims 1, 13 and 20 are in condition for allowance. Thus, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of Claims 1, 13 and 20, as well as the claims that depend from these independent claims.

Furthermore, since Claims 1, 13 and 20 are generic claims that have been found to be allowable, Applicants also request allowance of withdrawn Claims 5-12 and 15-19, which depend from Claims 1, 13 or 20, pursuant to M.P.E.P. § 821.04(a).

CONCLUSION

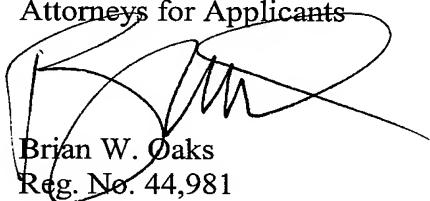
Applicants have made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request full allowance of all the pending claims.

If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would advance prosecution of this Application in any manner, the Examiner is invited to contact Brian W. Oaks, Attorney for Applicants, at the Examiner's convenience at (214) 953-6986.

Although Applicants believe no fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 02-0384 of Baker Botts L.L.P.

Respectfully submitted,

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